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# All stations meet recruiting goals

BY JESS LEVENS  
Editor

Last month, every Western Recruiting Region recruiting station attained its net new contract goal for the first time since February 2004.

“Recently, there has been a negative slant in the press because of the war (in Iraq),” said Col. Mark Dunn, assistant chief of staff, recruiting. “The fact that the Marine Corps is making mission shows that there are still patriotic youth in America, and it shows that the Marine Corps is still attractive to our young men and women.”

WRR is made up of three districts – the 8th, 9th and 12th Marine Corps Recruiting Districts. Each has eight recruiting stations.

After the Vietnam War, the U.S. armed forces became a voluntary institution, which means members are recruited and no longer drafted, according to Dunn.

	Oct-Nov 2004	Oct-Nov 2005
8th District	1029	1047
9th District	937	1044
12th District	1135	1212
TOTAL	3101	3303
	50.6% High School Grads	58.8% High School Grads

“(The war in Iraq) is really the first time our all-volunteer force has been tested with an extended period of hostility,” said Dunn, referring to the longevity of Operation Iraqi Freedom compared to other U.S. conflicts post-Vietnam.

Dunn said another reason the recruiting goals are important is because the Western recruiters are able to contract high-school graduates and ship them to training. The significance of recruiting graduates instead of high-school seniors is graduates can ship any time, whereas seniors cannot ship out until after graduation. This practice helps the shipping mission, which generally is more important than the contract mission, said Dunn.

“A recruiter can contract 100 new recruits in one month,” said Dunn, giving an example. “But if all the contracts are from high school seniors who can’t ship out that month, it really doesn’t help the overall recruiting mission.”

From October to November this year, recruiting west of the Mississippi River was 106 percent of what it was in 2004. The number of contracts increased by 202, and the percentage of high-school graduates recruited compared to high-school seniors jumped from 50.6 percent to 58.8 percent, according to Dunn.

All 24 WRR stations making their net new contract missions is a rarity, said Dunn, and the accomplishment reflects well on the Marine Corps’ recruiters and America’s youth.



Instructional Training Company drill instructor Staff Sgt. Ira J. Wilkie, left, leads depot triathlon team members Gunnery Sgt. John Wilson and Staff Sgt. Scott Brown on a 14-mile ride. Staff Sgt. Scott Dunn/Chevron photos

# Keeping strides

*The Corps lost a good officer to tragedy, but a drill instructor picked up the legacy*

LANCE CPL. MIKEL L. SAVIDES  
Contributing writer

When Staff Sgt. Ira J. Wilkie reported to Instructional Training Company, his executive officer wanted to talk athletics.

Speaking solemnly about the initial conversation, Wilkie accredited Capt. Patrick M. Klokow with making him the athlete Wilkie wished his former leader could see today.

Wilkie said Klokow talked about physical conditioning and wanted to know Wilkie’s interests. Klokow, known to be an exceptional athlete, set to make Wilkie a triathlete.

SEE **Triathlete**, pg. 8

# Marines lend helping holiday hands

BY LANCE CPL.  
KAITLYN M. SCARBORO  
Chevron staff

Depot Marines, sailors and Coast Guardsmen distributed goods to needy community families at the annual Nice Guys, Inc. Christmas Give-away carnival at Qualcomm Stadium Saturday.

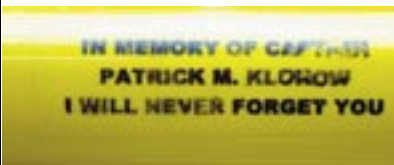
Each of the families received two bags of non-perishable food items, one turkey and one ham – a complete meal worth nearly \$100, according to retired Marine Col. Jack Kelly, a

director of Nice Guys, Inc.

Families that registered at the entrance also received a \$75 Mervyn’s gift card to help with holiday shopping. Recipients can expect a 15 percent discount off their purchases when they use the card, according to Kelly.

Attendance of the festival was by invitation only, and all members of the families were expected to attend. Clowns provided balloon animals and Home Depot provided wooden coin banks, compact disc holders

SEE **Help**, pg. 2





HONOR PLATOON

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SHOW & SHINE



OLDER CORPS

Thirty-year-old Delta grad has been around, but the Corps was his calling

6



**Help, from pg. 1**  
and other crafts made by employees and volunteers. Inflatable trampolines and mechanical rides provided fun for the kids, and Kruisin’ Kritters Animal Educa-



Cpl. Terrell N. Carey, a Marine volunteer for the Nice Guys, Inc. Christmas Giveaway, helps unload bags of canned foods at Qualcomm Stadium. Lance Cpl. Kaitlyn M. Scarboro/Chevron

# New SMP coordinator takes charge

BY CPL. EDWARD R. GUEVARA JR.  
*Chevron staff*

The depot Single Marine Program has a new leader. Marine Corps Community Service Semper Fit recently appointed Lowell Muenchau as the program's new coordinator.

Muenchau is a former field artillery sergeant who plans to put his own spin on an SMP dynasty created by his predecessor Britney O'Connor, according to Semper Fit director Brent F. Poser. O'Connor accepted a job offer in Washington, D.C., after almost three years with the depot.

Muenchau's main goals for the program are to alleviate the burden of high costs sometimes associated with having a good time and to provide a stress-free environment for the Marines and sailors outside of work.

During the interview stages of the hiring process, Muenchau stated plans for events he would like to plan for the Marines. He has already accomplished one – a trip to see “The Tonight Show with Jay Leno.”

“This should be fun,” Muenchau said. “I just don't want the Marines to feel like they are being baby-sat. If they can walk in and out of Iraq, I think they can take care of themselves stateside.”

Muenchau's long list of plans for the Marines and sailors in the program includes barbecues, casino nights, trips to

tion provided a display of reptiles for familiarization and education of no-legged to eight-legged creatures, according to Sue Miller, Kruisin’ Kritters owner.

Nice Guys, Inc. is a group of San Diego community members who have been helping the needy since 1979. More recently, members of the Nice Guys have set up specific funds for service members and families in need, helping purchase special vehicles for immobilized Marines and a hearing device for a depot Marine with a speech impediment.

A Victory fund was devised exclusively to help wounded Marines and sailors in San Diego, according to Kelly.

Retired and prior-service members of the Nice Guys have also set up a Semper Fi Injured Marine Fund.

“With the help of the Nice Guys and our Victory Fund we were able to establish the Semper Fi Injured Marine fund. We put together, each year, Christmas baskets for Marines,” said Kelly.

So far, the fund allows for 500 boxes of food for fami-

lies of Marines ranked sergeant and below.

“We are looking to identify as many deployed Marine’s families as possible. It’s a small way of saying thank you for all you’re doing,” said Kelly.

The Christmas Giveaway was a chance for community families to appreciate what the military is doing, at home and abroad, to help those in need, according to Kelly.

“Here are the same guys that are fighting for us, back here helping the families. I think it’s just a win-win situation,” said Kelly. “What’s outstanding is what the Marines are doing for us.”

The assistance Nice Guys, Inc. provides for the local military and community members is highly recognized and praised. All of the money raised by Nice Guys, Inc. is distributed back to the community and all of the expenses are paid for out of the group members’ pockets, but Kelly said he believes the real heroes are the service members who have been putting forth the efforts to make sure it all comes together.

‘I want the Marines to be involved and do what they want. It’s their program.’

Lowell Muenchau



Lowell Muenchau is the new Single Marine Program coordinator. Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr./Chevron

few people to form a group and a couple of telephone calls to work a group rate. In events where calls aren’t enough, Muenchau has the support of Semper Fit

to help fund the Marines’ adventures. “I want this program to be something the Marines as a whole can be proud of,” he said.

Trash tonnage going to the landfill has declined, while recycling tonnage has increased for Fiscal Year 2006. Thanks from the recycle center and remember these simple guidelines: Cardboard, paper, plastic, metal, and wood products are recyclable.

Red recycle bins are available throughout the depot and at the recycle center. Green dumpsters are for trash only. Every bit of effort put into sorting and separating recyclables helps improve the efficiency of your program.

### State tax exemption filing

A number of states exempt military pay from taxation provided certain conditions are met and a DD Form 2058-1, State Tax Exemption Test Certificate is filed. The form must be filed no later than Dec. 31, 2005 for Calendar Year 2006. Failure to file the DD Form 2058-1 in a timely manner will result in the State Tax Exemption being stopped.

Marines should contact Consolidat-

ed Personnel Administration Center for assistance in filing the exemption if their state of legal residence is Connecticut, Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, New York, Oregon or West Virginia.

Point of contact at CPAC is Sgt. Mario A. Delmoralzuniga at (619) 524-6101.

### Military testing

The Recruit Administration Branch offers the Defense Language Proficiency Test, Defense Language Aptitude Battery, and Armed Service Vocational Aptitude Battery tests to all military members. Testing is held every Friday at 8 a.m. Call (619) 524-6123 or (619) 524-1993 to schedule an appointment

SEND BRIEFS TO [scott.dunn@usmc.mil](mailto:scott.dunn@usmc.mil). The Chevron staff reserves the right to publish only those briefs that comply with Department of Defense regulations and the standards of the U.S. Government.

# IDENTITY THEFT

## The scams are out there, make sure your info isn’t

BY CAPT. EDWARD C. MITCHELL  
*Contributing writer*

You apply for a credit card and get turned down because you have a low credit score. But you know that you have always made timely payments on all your accounts. Then, a debt collector calls you demanding payment and fees on a ninety-day overdue account for a cell phone you have never owned, let alone used.

What’s happening? You could be a victim of identity theft, where an imposter is using your personal information to obtain credit in your name. When the thief does not pay “your” bills, the company or a debt collection agency contacts you to demand payment. As a result of identity theft, your credit report will likely contain negative information about your payment history, and your credit score has probably been lowered considerably, making it difficult if not impossible to obtain new credit yourself.

Identity theft is one of the nation’s fastest growing crimes. The Federal Trade Commission reported that in 2003 there were almost 10 million victims of identity theft. The corresponding cost to businesses has totaled approximately \$48 billion, and the cost to consumers reaches nearly \$5 billion.

Identity theft is the stealing of a victim’s identity to obtain credit, credit cards from banks and retailers, steal money from the victim’s existing accounts, apply for loans, establish accounts with utility companies, rent an apartment, file bankruptcy or obtain a job using the victim’s name. The thief steals thousands of dollars in the victim’s name without the victim knowing about it for months or quite possibly years. Recent cases have

involved criminals using the victim’s identity to commit crimes ranging from traffic infractions to felonies.

In one infamous case, the identity thief, a convicted felon, not only incurred more than \$100,000 of credit card debt, obtained a federal home loan, and bought homes, motorcycles, and handguns in the victim’s name, but he called his victim to taunt him – saying he could continue to pose as the victim for as long as he wanted because identity theft was not a federal crime at that time – before filing for bankruptcy, also in the victim’s name.

Unlike your fingerprints, which are unique to you and cannot be given to someone else for their use, your personal data, in the wrong hands, can be used to profit at your expense.

Your good name is vulnerable. All an identity thief needs is your social security number, your birth date and other identifying information such as your address and phone number. Once a thief opens the first account, he can use this new account along with the other identifiers to add to their credibility. This facilitates the proliferation of the fraud. Now the thief is well on his way to getting rich and ruining your credit and good name.

To victims of identity theft, the task of correcting incorrect information about their financial or personal status, and trying to restore their good names and reputations, may seem as daunting as trying to piece together a jigsaw puzzle in which some of the pieces are missing and others no longer fit as they once did. Unfortunately, the damage that criminals do in stealing another person’s identity often takes far longer to undo than it took the criminal to commit the crimes.

If you think you have become a victim of identity theft or fraud, act immediately to minimize the damage to your personal funds and financial accounts, as well as your reputation.

File a police report with your local police department. Send copies of the report to any creditors or other agencies that may require proof of the crime.

Contact all creditors by phone and in writing with whom your name or identifying data have been fraudulently used. Contact all financial institutions where you have accounts that an identity thief has taken over or that have been created in your name but without your knowledge. You may need to cancel those accounts, place stop-payment orders on outstanding checks that may not have cleared, and get a new ATM card, account, and personal identification number.

Contact the Federal Trade Commission to report whether you have been a victim of identity theft at (877) 438-4338 or by mail to Consumer Response Center, FTC, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20580.

Under the Identity and Theft Assumption Act, the FTC is responsible for receiving and processing complaints from people who believe they may be victims of identity theft, providing informational materials to those people, and referring those complaints to the appropriate agencies, including the major credit reporting agencies and law enforcement agencies.

You may also need to contact other agencies for other types of identity theft, like your local postal inspection service office, if you suspect that an identity thief has submitted a change-of-address form with the post office to redirect your mail, or has

used the mail to commit frauds involving your identity. Contact the Social Security Administration if you suspect that your social security number is being fraudulently used. Call (800) 269-0271 to report the fraud. Or contact the Internal Revenue Service if you suspect the improper use of identification information in connection with tax violations at (800) 829-0433.

Keep records of all contacts you make, and keep copies of any letters you send or receive in relation to the identity theft. If you later have a problem with somebody you informed of the incident, good records will often help you resolve the problem.

Protect yourself. Many people do not realize how easily criminals can obtain their personal data without having to break into their homes. In public places, for example, criminals may engage in shoulder surfing – standing behind you and watching over your shoulder as you enter your PIN at a local ATM.

Even the area near your home may not be secure. Some criminals engage in dumpster diving – going through your garbage cans or a communal dumpster to obtain copies of your checks, credit card or bank statements, or other records that typically bear your name, address, and even your telephone number.

If you receive applications for pre-approved credit cards in the mail, but discard them without tearing up the enclosed materials, criminals may retrieve them and attempt to activate the cards for their use without your knowledge. It is important to note that some credit card companies, when sending credit cards, have adopted security measures that allow a card recipient to activate the card only from his home telephone number, but this is not yet a universal practice. Also, if your mail is delivered to a place where others have ready access to it, criminals may simply intercept and redirect your mail to another location.

Avoid “phishing” – scams where thieves try to get you to disclose valuable personal data like credit card numbers, passwords, account data or other information by convincing you to provide it under false pretenses. Phishing schemes can be carried out in person or over the phone and are delivered online through spam e-mail or pop-up windows.

Unfortunately, there’s no quick and easy solution to this problem, and if you are a victim, you’ll likely spend a lot of time explaining the situation on the phone. Victims, on average, spend 175 hours and about \$800 out of their own pockets to clear their names. The key is to remain vigilant and be diligent in keeping your personal information safe.

If you have questions about identity theft, visit the MCRD Legal Assistance Office for further assistance, or call (619) 524-4110 for an appointment. *\*Mitchell is a legal assistance attorney at the depot.*



Photo illustration by Staff Sgt. Scott Dunn/Chevron

Helpful phone numbers:	<i>Credit reporting</i>
	Equifax: (888) 766-0008
	Trans Union: (800) 680-7289
	Experian: (888) 397-3742
	<i>Check verification</i>
	CheckRite: (800) 766-2748
	ChexSystems: (800) 428-9623
	CrossCheck: (800) 552-1900

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Low-rider rims sparkle in the sun at the car and motorcycle show Saturday. Hector Iniguez is responsible for the custom cloth interior of this and several other low-riders at the show.



A T-shirt-clad Shitzu named Gus lies out in the luxurious interior of a 2006 Chevrolet Corvette.

# New, vintage hot rods flex muscle at MCCS auto show

BY PVT. CHARLIE CHAVEZ  
*Chevron staff*

New and vintage cars and motorcycles filled the Shepherd Field parking lot during the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Auto Skills Car and Motorcycle Show Dec. 3.

Marines and civilians brought their vehicles to the four-hour showcase, which featured holiday charity Toys for Tots and a disc jockey from KCEO, a local business talk radio station.

As music played, car enthusiasts walked around talking with one another about their vehicles and the specifications and upgrades they put on their cars.

"I bought this car for my husband's

birthday present," said Tina L. Somers, showcasing a 2006 Chevrolet Corvette. "It's a V8 6-liter, 400 horsepower, six-speed (triptonic) transmission."

Standing next to his 1965 Ford Mustang, Michael C. Hume proudly displayed a picture of his father, who completed recruit training almost 50 years ago.

"My dad will really enjoy hearing about all the people I met," said Hume. "I finally got the chance to fix up my car and get her ready for shows."

Some of the Marines stationed on the depot managed to come over and see the vehicles on display.

"I really enjoy seeing all these great cars," said Lance Cpl. Ryan J. Crummey, finance

clerk. "I enjoyed the muscle cars the most — especially knowing how much time people put into them."

Some of the cars were family projects that had deep meanings to the couples and families about what they had accomplished.

"It's a passion of ours to enter our car," said Anne F. Shires, displaying her 2005 Ford Mustang. "We won a few prizes in Arizona. When we entered it in some shows there, the only upgrade was an Injen cold-air intake."

The next Marine Corps Community Services event is the Commanding General's Cup field meet today at the depot boat-house, which is the final event in the race for the cup.



Howard A. Gire, left, Ford Shelby Cobra owner, talks with spectators about his 50 year-old vehicle and the 440 horsepower under the hood at this year's Marine Corps Community Services Auto Skills car and motorcycle show. Pvt. Charlie Chavez/Chevron photos



Retired sailor Michael C. Hume stands next to his 1965 Ford Mustang and displays a picture of his father as a Marine on top of the engine block.



# WAITING FOR THE CALL

## Former sailor leaves good job to do his part in Corps

BY PVT. CHARLIE CHAVEZ  
*Chevron staff*

A Company D graduate served his country once before as a sailor, and he returns to serve again as a Marine despite criticism from his friends and family.

Pfc. Leonidez Cruz, Platoon 1131, 30, grew up in El Paso, Texas and joined the Navy in 1994 – a week after he graduated from high school. Trying to get away from home, Cruz wanted to move his life in a different direction.

“I just wanted to get away from home and see the world, so I went into the aviation-electrical mechanic field,” said Cruz.

Cruz reported to Naval Air Station North Island, San Diego and participated in two deployments while in the Navy seeing the world.

“I did get to see a lot of places while

*‘I didn’t just want to be in a boat and float around. I wanted to be part of the immediate solution.’*

**Pfc. Leonidez Cruz**  
On second military tour

I was in the Navy like Australia, the Philippines and Samoa, and I have been to Hawaii countless times,” said Cruz. “I was basically around the Persian Gulf when we deployed.”

Finishing his first enlistment, Cruz left the Navy in 1999 because his life at home was suffering and his wife asked him to.

“We ended up getting a divorce and I went home to Texas for six months,” said Cruz. “I did volunteer work while I was there.”

After the six-month hiatus, Cruz came back to San Diego and began working for the Boeing airline company at the Naval Air Station North Island.

“I did that for about two years and then I got a job with Butler International,” said Cruz. “With that job I was moving throughout the country to New York and all kinds of places helping fix planes.”

After another two years, Cruz set himself up financially and came back to San Diego where he became a real-estate consultant for a year before deciding to join the Marine Corps Reserve.



Pfc. Leonidez Cruz, Platoon 1131, Company D, stirs a penicillin substitute for allergic recruits at Johnson Hall, the depot medical center. *Pvt. Charlie Chavez/Chevron*

### Retired Maj. Garland N. Copeland

PARADE REVIEWING OFFICER



Garland N. Copeland enlisted in the Marine Corps in February 1972, and he reported to Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., in June 1972. After graduating recruit training, he was assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, Camp Pendleton, Calif. In December 1972, he attended the Basic Wireman Course and was subsequently assigned to Division Communications Co., Headquarters Bn., 1st Marine Division. In July 1974, he transferred to Okinawa, Japan, and he served with the 3rd Reconnaissance Bn., 3rd Marine Division. In September 1975, he transferred to Marine Air Base Squadron-31, Marine Aircraft

Group-31, Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C. In April 1978, he transferred to MABS-12, MAG-12, MCAS Iwakuni, Japan. In May 1979, he volunteered for and was assigned to MCRD San Diego for duty as a drill instructor. In February 1981, Copeland was meritoriously promoted to gunnery sergeant and in June of 1981, he was selected as the drillmaster for Drill Instructor School. In February 1983, he was selected as the regimental drillmaster. In March 1984, after completing nearly 5 years as a drill instructor, he transferred to 7th Communications Bn., Okinawa.

In February 1985, Copeland was promoted to warrant officer and after completion of The Basic School, he was transferred

to 9th Communications Bn., Camp Pendleton and assigned to Communications Support Co. In March 1986, he attended the Basic Communications Officer Course, graduating as an honor graduate. In February 1987, Copeland was promoted to chief warrant officer 2, and later transferred to Field Skills Training Co., Headquarters Bn., 1st Marine Division as the company executive officer. In July 1989, he assumed the duties as the commanding officer, FST Co. In July 1990, he transferred to Communications Co., Headquarters Bn., 1st Marine Division for a second tour. One month later in August 1990, he deployed to Southwest Asia and participated in both Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. In February 1991, he was promoted to chief warrant officer 3, and throughout the two campaigns served as the commu-

nications officer for the Division Forward Command Post.

In August 1991, Copeland transferred to 1st Surveillance, Reconnaissance and Intelligence Group, 9th Communications Bn. as the operations officer for Co. B and later reassigned to the battalion training office as the system planning and engineer officer. While there, he deployed to Somalia in support of Operation Restore Hope. In July 1994, he transferred to 7th Communications Bn., III Marine Expeditionary Force and was assigned as the operations officer for Support Company. In October 1994, Copeland was promoted to chief warrant officer 4, and one year later, he was promoted to captain.

In July 1996, he assumed the duties as the commanding officer, Co. A, 7th Communications Bn.

In July 1997, Copeland transferred to Headquarters

and Service Co., Headquarters Bn., 1st Marine Division and was assigned as a member of the assistant chief of staff as the assistant operations officer. In November 1997, he assumed the duties the division operations officer. In March 2001 he was promoted to major and in June of 2001, he assumed the duties as the commanding officer, Communications Co., Headquarters Bn., 1st Marine Division. In February 2003, he deployed to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He retired with nearly 32 years of active duty service in October 2003.

Copeland is currently employed as the deputy assistant chief of staff for communication information systems at Camp Pendleton. He is married to the former Sonja F. Tuala of American Samoa.



<b>Platoon 1136</b> <b>COMPANY HONOR MAN</b> Pfc. J. M. Wood Palmyra, Ind. Recruited by Staff Sgt. G. D. Gipson	<b>Platoon 1130</b> <b>SERIES HONOR MAN</b> Pfc. C. M. Caggiano Highlands Ranch, Colo. Recruited by Sgt. J. P. Monahan	<b>Platoon 1129</b> <b>PLATOON HONOR MAN</b> Pfc. G. C. Merkle San Jose, Calif. Recruited by Staff Sgt. D. R. Cerrato	<b>Platoon 1131</b> <b>PLATOON HONOR MAN</b> Pfc. R. R. Alvarado Santa Paula, Calif. Recruited by Staff Sgt. J. C. Avila	<b>Platoon 1133</b> <b>PLATOON HONOR MAN</b> Pfc. C. Zelhart Mokenna, Ill. Recruited by Staff Sgt. L. W. Kusnik	<b>Platoon 1134</b> <b>PLATOON HONOR MAN</b> Pfc. J. A. Moreno San Bernardino, Calif. Recruited by Staff Sgt. S. A. Stephens	<b>Platoon 1135</b> <b>PLATOON HONOR MAN</b> Pfc. C. L. Pigao Jr. Kapaa, Hawaii Recruited by Staff Sgt. J. P. Arellano	<b>Platoon 1134</b> <b>HIGH SHOOTER (239)</b> Pfc. H. C. Pulliam Jonesboro, Ariz. Recruited by Sgt. J. Nicks	<b>Platoon 1130</b> <b>HIGH PFT (300)</b> Pfc. D. H. Phil Hillsboro, Oregon Recruited by Staff Sgt. K. B. Champion
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# DELTA COMPANY

These are America's newest Marines and their leaders at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. Company D graduates 489 men today:

### FIRST RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION

Commanding Officer  
Lt. Col. B. S. Blankenship  
Sergeant Major  
Sgt. Maj. A. A. Spadaro  
Chaplain  
Lt. Cmdr. J. E. West  
Drill Master  
Staff Sgt. L. G. Duranleau

### COMPANY D

Commanding Officer  
Capt. W. W. Marlowe  
First Sergeant  
1st Sgt. J. W. Senn

### SERIES 1129

Series Commander  
Capt. M. D. Goodwin  
Series Gunnery Sergeant  
Gunnery Sgt. C. R. Kinzer

### SERIES 1133

Series Commander  
Capt. S. Rosales  
Series Gunnery Sergeant  
Staff Sgt. E. Tejada

### PLATOON 1129

Senior Drill Instructor  
Gunnery Sgt. J. M. Canitu  
Drill Instructors  
Gunnery Sgt. B. R. Papakie  
Sgt. B. J. Carver  
Sgt. M. A. DeQuattro

Pvt. R. D. Abitzsch  
Pvt. M. A. Almanza  
Pfc. J. Alvarado  
\*Pfc. T. S. Andris  
Pvt. V. M. Argumedeo  
Pvt. C. D. Bacon  
Pfc. D. J. Bodrog  
Pfc. D. D. Boike  
Pvt. J. D. Bointy  
Pvt. C. A. Brionesteran  
Pfc. A. J. Brodehl  
Pvt. R. N. Bullard III  
Pfc. E. D. Burns  
Pvt. J. A. Burrow Jr.  
Pfc. J. L. Bass Jr.  
Pfc. J. M. Bazar  
Pvt. T. E. Cameron  
\*Pfc. N. N. Cassell  
Pfc. T. J. Celaya Jr.  
Pvt. J. J. Cooper  
Pvt. M. G. Crum  
Pvt. J. J. Czyzyk  
Pvt. B. C. Danby  
Pvt. P. Delgado  
Pfc. J. N. Delisle  
Pvt. I. A. Dike  
Pfc. D. T. Do  
Pvt. M. J. Ferreira  
Pvt. A. Flores  
Pvt. J. L. Flores  
Pfc. R. T. Flores  
Pvt. T. G. Ford  
Pfc. E. M. Frank  
Pvt. D. J. Gabarron Jr.  
Pvt. J. Garcia Jr.  
Pvt. T. A. Genzler  
Pfc. K. M. Gibson  
Pvt. N. J. Glende  
Pvt. J. J. Gonzalez  
Pvt. M. A. Gordon II  
Pfc. D. M. Gott  
Pvt. N. K. Green  
Pvt. D. G. Gutierrez  
Pvt. C. J. Hart  
Pfc. M. L. Hausam  
\*Pfc. J. C. Hensley  
\*Pfc. J. C. Heredia  
Pvt. H. I. Hernandez  
Pvt. H. Hernandez  
Pfc. C. D. Hoffman  
Pvt. B. P. Homan  
Pvt. C. J. Hopkins  
Pfc. H. Iing  
Pvt. R. L. Jennings  
Pvt. R. L. Johnson  
Pfc. C. M. Kaye  
Pvt. T. Kim  
Pvt. J. K. Kinder  
Pvt. J. D. Lance  
Pvt. J. A. Lawton  
Pfc. B. C. Lepe  
Pvt. V. H. Lopezrojas  
Pvt. J. Maciel  
Pvt. K. J. Marion  
Pvt. D. M. McFadden  
Pvt. J. C. McKelvey  
Pfc. G. C. McKelvey  
Pvt. P. Morales III  
Pvt. B. E. Morrow Jr.  
Pvt. E. Y. Oliver

Pvt. M. A. Peterson  
Pvt. J. J. Saladye

### PLATOON 1130

Senior Drill Instructor  
Sgt. R. E. Nevinger  
Drill Instructors  
Sgt. G. G. Oshana  
Sgt. C. E. Murch  
Sgt. J. C. Fyffe  
Sgt. G. S. Williams

Pvt. G. M. Armijo  
Pfc. A. M. Avila  
Pvt. B. D. Bailey  
Pvt. V. E. Ball  
Pfc. J. L. Bass Jr.  
Pfc. J. M. Bazar  
Pvt. T. E. Cameron  
\*Pfc. N. N. Cassell  
Pfc. T. J. Celaya Jr.  
Pvt. J. J. Cooper  
Pvt. M. G. Crum  
Pvt. J. J. Czyzyk  
Pvt. B. C. Danby  
Pvt. P. Delgado  
Pfc. J. N. Delisle  
Pvt. I. A. Dike  
Pfc. D. T. Do  
Pvt. M. J. Ferreira  
Pvt. A. Flores  
Pvt. J. L. Flores  
Pfc. R. T. Flores  
Pvt. T. G. Ford  
Pfc. E. M. Frank  
Pvt. D. J. Gabarron Jr.  
Pvt. J. Garcia Jr.  
Pvt. T. A. Genzler  
Pfc. K. M. Gibson  
Pvt. N. J. Glende  
Pvt. J. J. Gonzalez  
Pvt. M. A. Gordon II  
Pfc. D. M. Gott  
Pvt. N. K. Green  
Pvt. D. G. Gutierrez  
Pvt. C. J. Hart  
Pfc. M. L. Hausam  
\*Pfc. J. C. Hensley  
\*Pfc. J. C. Heredia  
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Pvt. E. Y. Oliver

Pvt. R. D. Abitzsch  
Pvt. M. A. Almanza  
Pfc. J. Alvarado  
\*Pfc. T. S. Andris  
Pvt. V. M. Argumedeo  
Pvt. C. D. Bacon  
Pfc. D. J. Bodrog  
Pfc. D. D. Boike  
Pvt. J. D. Bointy  
Pvt. C. A. Brionesteran  
Pfc. A. J. Brodehl  
Pvt. R. N. Bullard III  
Pfc. E. D. Burns  
Pvt. J. A. Burrow Jr.  
Pfc. J. L. Bass Jr.  
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Pvt. J. A. Aceves  
Pvt. A. L. Agosto  
\*Pfc. R. Alvarado  
Pvt. C. S. Ambrose  
\*Pfc. D. Anderson Jr.  
Pvt. A. D. Cole  
Pvt. S. A. Araujo  
Pvt. L. N. Bersing  
Pvt. B. S. Blevins  
Pvt. D. L. Bloom  
Pfc. J. R. Bottari  
Pvt. W. T. Brawom  
Pvt. B. I. Bravo  
Pvt. M. J. Cartwright  
Pvt. D. A. Clarke  
Pvt. J. M. Cole  
Pfc. L. Cruz  
Pvt. V. X. Dam  
Pvt. D. R. Demara  
Pvt. M. R. Dodson  
Pvt. J. S. Eager  
Pvt. S. A. Elder  
Pvt. J. M. Finney  
Pvt. A. V. Garcia  
Pvt. D. Godinez  
Pfc. S. B. Gomez  
\*Pfc. E. Gomez Jr.  
Pfc. C. S. Gray  
Pvt. J. Gutierrez  
Pfc. W. M. Hall  
Pfc. R. W. Hampton  
Pvt. M. R. Herbert  
\*Pfc. J. H. Heigle  
Pvt. L. J. Herrman  
Pvt. S. T. Hilbert  
Pvt. S. E. Huskey  
Pfc. D. E. Jackson  
Pfc. J. L. Janecka  
Pvt. C. E. Johnson  
Pfc. J. A. Jones  
\*Pfc. W. T. Kearney II  
Pfc. J. P. Kelly  
Pvt. K. C. Knapp  
Pvt. K. B. Kleinjans  
Pvt. E. N. Larnan  
Pfc. B. M. Lopez  
Pvt. D. E. Lowrey  
Pvt. P. W. Lwin  
Pvt. J. B. Magana

Pvt. K. S. Martin  
Pvt. K. J. McManus  
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Pfc. A. F. McDaniel  
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Pfc. C. Zelhart

Pfc. A. F. McDaniel  
Pfc. J. Mendez  
Pvt. J. B. Mevey  
Pvt. J. Miller





Wilkie prepares water bottles while fellow triathlon club member Julie A. Matthews makes her own preparations before a bike ride. *Staff Sgt. Scott Dunn/Chevron photos*



Wilkie pedals past Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery during a 14-mile team ride Monday.

Triathlete, from pg. 1

Workouts would go during lunchtime, early mornings and weekends.

“It was all new to me,” said Wilkie of the training. “I was always a strong runner, but my swimming skills lacked. And although I had previously done a little mountain biking, riding on the road is completely different.”

Wilkie said the cycling began when Klokow started working out with him during lunch and riding whenever they had time.

Soon training with Klokow became Wilkie’s main focus.

“I stopped going out at night and doing anything that would interfere with my training to become a triathlete,” said Wilkie. “To be good requires a lot of dedication.”

Meanwhile, Wilkie furthered his education, which he said Klokow constantly strived to do. Amidst the training, Wilkie attended the University of Phoenix with a full course load. All the while, he served as a drill instructor and an academic instructor.

When speaking about Klokow’s influence, Wilkie said, “He was always looking to improve himself, and I strived to be like him.”

After a while, other Marines said the two athletes developed similar characteristics.

“The biggest thing they had in common was their work ethic, and they both always focused on teamwork, taking care of Marines and physical fitness,” said Staff Sgt. Bill J. Shaw Jr., an IT Co. drill instructor.

A few days after an intense Saturday workout – an Olympic distance ride in late August – Wilkie was blindsided by what he called “the last thing any of us expected to hear.”

Klokow had been killed.

The two had planned to cycle separately to work on the morning of Aug. 23. At lunchtime, they would do one of their favorite workouts: a bike-to-run transition. However, only one of them made it to work that day. A hit-and-run driver struck and killed Klokow.

“Tuesday was one of our best workouts,” said Wilkie, his face turning somber. “That morning we were told to report to the company office. I had not seen (Klokow) yet that morning, so I figured I would talk to him there about our workout. Then I saw the chaplain and the look on our first sergeant’s face. Something wasn’t right.”

That day, Wilkie left his office and realized he had only one way home: his bicycle.

‘I had not seen him yet that morning ... Then I saw the chaplain and the look on our first sergeant’s face.’

– Staff Sgt. Ira J. Wilkie

“I made it all the way down to the gate when I got off my bike and called my girlfriend for a ride. I just thought to myself, ‘Maybe this isn’t the smartest thing to do.’”

Moments before, Wilkie’s friend Shaw had warned him to “be careful” riding home.

His mentor’s death was hard, but it didn’t keep him off his bike for long.

Two weeks later, Wilkie competed in the Los Angeles Triathlon and placed fourth in the public service category. He also began heading the depot’s triathlon club, which Klokow originally organized. In honor of Klokow, Wilkie had club jerseys printed with Klokow’s initials.

In the past year, Wilkie has competed in about nine triathlons and various other events such as marathons and Half-Ironman competitions, and he thanks Klokow for sparking the interest.

Wilkie has kept Klokow in his memory in many different ways, but he said he thinks about him most when competing in big events. Wilkie has trained for, competed in and completed the Tour de Julian 2005, the Open Air MRI Centers Silver Strand Half Marathon and 5K, the Las Vegas Marathon, the San Diego Rock n’ Roll Marathon and many other events.

Recently, he has been training for Ironman Florida, an event with around 2,500 entrants registering within three hours, according to Wilkie.

Wilkie said, “I owe him a lot. I wouldn’t have gotten into this if it weren’t for him.”

A sticker on Wilkie’s bike reads, “In memory of Captain Patrick M. Klokow, I will never forget you.”

Wilkie has ridden that bike in nearly every competition since Klokow’s passing.

*Savides is a combat correspondent with the 12th Marine Corps District recruiting headquarters in San Diego.*



Staff Sgt. Ira J. Wilkie heads the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Triathlon Club. Wilkie recently honored the club’s founder, Capt. Patrick M. Klokow, by printing “PMK” on the club jerseys. *Staff Sgt. Scott Dunn/Chevron photos*



Staff Sgt. Scott A. Brown, right, joined Wilkie and three others before a ride Monday. The triathlon club has about a dozen members.